

common interest has failed, however, to override many obstacles in the path of unity. An urban area which seemingly should be under the jurisdiction of one basic unit of government has been splintered by the formation of three municipalities. On several occasions opportunities to combine have been bypassed in favor of other solutions.

Significant responsibility for providing urban functions for the benefit of the general public in the Tri-City Planning Area, rests with the following governmental jurisdictions:

State of North Carolina  
Rockingham County  
Leaksville Township School District  
City of Leaksville  
Town of Draper  
Town of Spray  
Meadow Greens Sanitary District  
Eden Metropolitan Sewage District

Ignoring municipal boundaries, urban development has spilled over into the unincorporated territory contiguous to Leaksville, Draper, and Spray. Development in these areas has created urban problems the county government is not equipped to handle. Beginning with scattered residential development that grew into clusters of mixed land uses, now strips of urban development are thickening along state highways and other roads that penetrate the fringe area. Continued urbanization in the Central Area has passed the place where an unrealistic approach to future development is no longer adequate. As the population increases in the fringe areas people living outside the corporate boundaries of Leaksville, Draper, and Spray are being confronted with problems of providing adequate sanitation, police and fire protection, and a safe dependable water supply.

The advantages to be gained by having important community facilities such as fire protection, water purification and distribution, sidewalks, and public sanitation provided by municipal government is well understood by inhabitants of the Tri-Cities. Neither has the convenience of having facilities and services provided by public bodies been ignored by many residents who live in the rapidly urbanizing but unincorporated fringe area of Leaksville, Draper, and Spray. The proximity to one of the towns and established municipal policies enables fringe area residents to enjoy many of the benefits of living in town without the obligation of financially supporting the municipal services. However, residents of these areas are unable to participate in electing the municipal officials who administer the operation of the vital public facilities.